

## **AJN Network Phase Three: An Information Resource for Nurses**

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### **Introduction**

In September of 1993 the American Journal of Nursing Company was awarded a three-year Special Projects Grant from the Division of Nursing, Department of Health and Human Services to develop an information service that would provide a variety of formal and informal continuing education opportunities to nurses. **AJN Network** went "live" in March 1994 and our progress was presented at SCAMC in 1994 and 1995.

### **Discussion**

During the first year of operation, **AJN Network's** bulletin board was available through a dial in service. In September 1994 we became an Internet node and provided telnet access. Plans to move to a Windows client in 1995 were replaced with a move to the World Wide Web. This electronic poster will detail our progress in Year 3, the final year of the grant period, describing expansion of user base and content, statistical findings from a user survey, demographics from the Web site, new content offerings, and plans for future development.

**AJN Network** is housed within the American Journal of Nursing Company World Wide Web site, **AJN ONLINE**. Publications such as the American Journal of Nursing and MCN are available. Content from **AJN Network**, such as the journal clubs, will be integrated throughout the **AJN ONLINE** site. Progress will be demonstrated in this electronic poster session.

Focus groups met to design a motif of a nursing center of the future. This motif has been used to conceptually organize the **AJN Network** area of **AJN ONLINE** into four areas: the Learning Resource Center, Career Center, Peer Consultation Area, and Nursing Organizations.

### **The Learning Resource Center contains:**

- A Virtual Conference Center where users can read abstracts of conference presentations and post messages and questions for the presenters
- Interactive courses for CE credit
- Resource databases: listings of nursing continuing education conferences, certification requirements of specialty organizations and licensure and CE requirements of State Boards of Nursing
- CE credit offerings in text and computer-assisted instructions format
- Patient information on various topics

### **The Career Center houses:**

- Databases and discussion areas related to jobs available or wanted
- Discussion areas related to career changes, growth, skills etc.

The **Peer Consultation** area is the largest discussion area with forums carried over from **AJN Network** and some new additions. The forums, where current topics or clinical issues can be discussed by all network users, utilize Cold Fusion software, a sophisticated Internet communication tool. Peer Consultation is divided into Areas of Practice, Nursing Roles, Settings and Nursing Issues. This structure provides an organized means to find discussion areas and/or links to relevant resources inside or outside of **AJN Network**.

**Nursing Organizations** have been invited to post a homepage on **AJN Network** with information describing their group and a forum area. The goal is to help them become familiar with the technology and the use of the web as a means of communicating with members and potential members.

### **Access to AJN Network**

If you have access to the Internet, we invite you to browse **AJN Network** at <http://www.ajn.org>.